2005, there are 5.2 million infected persons in the country. 5,85,092 persons have been tested positive at government counseling and testing centres since the start of the epidemic. 1,65,276 AIDS cases have been reported by the state health authorities.

(b) Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipurand Nagaland have reported HIV prevalence of more then 1 % among antenatal women representing the general population. As on 2005,140 districts in the country recorded HIV prevalence as more than 1 % among antenatal women.

(c) In order to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, the Government of India is implementing the National AIDS Control Programme as a 100% centrally sponsored scheme. The strategy is based primarily on preventing new infections by focused interventions among high risk groups, and also providing care, support and treatment to HIV infected persons. For increasing awareness about and creating demand generation for services, emphasis is placed on EC through mass media channels and interpersonal communications.

Bullet train

t2066. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to start bullet train keeping in view the forthcoming Commonwealth Games;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it would be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, pre-feasibility studies will be undertaken for construction of high speed passenger corridors suitable for running high speed trains at speeds of 300—350 kmph. These studies would cover one corridor each in the Northern, Western, Southern and Eastern regions of the country.

(c) At this stage, it is premature to predict the outcome of the studies.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.